

**CLAIMS**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1-50. (canceled)

51. (previously presented) An animal treat apparatus comprising:

    a unitary resilient member having an outside surface;

    an interior compartment within the unitary resilient member for containing animal treats;

    an aperture within said outside surface providing access to said interior compartment, wherein the aperture lies within a plane and is surrounded by a perimeter lip of the unitary resilient member; and

    an edible animal treat removably retained within the aperture that blocks access to the interior compartment via the aperture, wherein:

        the edible animal treat has a substantially dome-shaped outward-facing surface; and

        when the edible animal treat is removably retained within the aperture, a central portion of the edible animal treat extends outwardly from the unitary resilient member beyond the plane and a peripheral portion of the edible animal treat is resiliently held within the aperture such that, in a direction orthogonal to the plane, the perimeter lip overlays the peripheral portion.

52. (previously presented) The animal treat apparatus of claim 51, wherein the unitary resilient member includes a wall separating the aperture and the interior compartment, the wall having an opening formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the interior compartment and the aperture.

53. (previously presented) The animal treat apparatus of claim 52, wherein the wall includes more than one resilient flap limiting a size of the opening.

54. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 52, wherein:

the plane is a first plane;

the wall and aperture define a space; and

a dimension of the space spaced apart from the aperture and in a second plane parallel to a first plane containing the aperture is greater than a maximum dimension of the aperture.

55. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 54, wherein the edible animal treat has a size of approximately the dimension of the space.

56. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 51, wherein the outside surface of the unitary resilient member is generally spheroidal.

57. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 51, wherein the outside surface has at least one raised feature formed thereon.

58. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 51, wherein the aperture is a first aperture, and wherein a second aperture is formed in the outside surface that allows animal treats to move between the interior compartment and an exterior of the animal treat apparatus.

59. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 58, wherein the unitary resilient member includes a wall separating the second aperture and the interior compartment, the wall having an opening formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the interior compartment and the aperture.

60. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 59, wherein the wall includes more than one resilient flap limiting a size of the opening.

61. (new) The animal treat apparatus of claim 51, wherein the unitary resilient member is a ball.